



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Driving Indiana's Economic Growth*

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**Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor**  
**Michael W. Reed, Commissioner**

March 12, 2010

Dear Indiana School Administrators and Public Officials:

In 2006, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) launched the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program in Indiana. The goal of this initiative is to make bicycling and walking to school safe and routine. SRTS funding helps create an environment where children in kindergarten through eighth grade can safely get to school on bikes or on foot. Americans increasingly realize that traffic congestion, fuel consumption and air pollution near our schools, coupled with growing health and obesity concerns, make walking and biking to school a reasonable, low-cost and attractive transportation option.

INDOT administers the SRTS program that makes reimbursement funds available for approved activities and projects. The Department relies on an application process and an advisory committee to determine the most worthwhile projects. This letter is to inform you that INDOT will accept 2010 SRTS applications from April 1<sup>st</sup> through May 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. Watch the INDOT SRTS Web page, <http://saferoutes.in.gov>, for the new 2010 application and application guide. Student and parent survey forms, directions for submitting survey data and other relevant information are also available on the website.

School principals, school district officials, school nurses and PE teachers, local transportation officials and planners, health care and law enforcement officials, bicycle and pedestrian advocates are encouraged to work together to improve bicycling and walking to school and to get our children more physically active. What education, enforcement and encouragement techniques will get more children bicycling or walking to school in your town? What improvements would make it safer for students to walk to public and private schools? What policies that discourage children from walking or biking to school can we change? How can we partner with parents and health officials to create a comprehensive, effective Safe Routes plan?

Did you know that approved SRTS education, enforcement, evaluation and encouragement programs may be 100% reimbursable? To find out more about the national Safe Routes to School Program go to: [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org) and <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>. Please contact Michael O'Loughlin at INDOT at [moloughlin@indot.in.gov](mailto:moloughlin@indot.in.gov) or visit the INDOT SRTS Web page to find out more about the Indiana Safe Routes to School Program.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Loughlin  
Safe Routes to School Program Manager